and Azam Cheema, in the Consolidated List of entities and individuals associated with Al-Qaida and the Taliban. In accordance with the established procedure of this Committee, its membership is limited to permanent and non-permanent members of the UN Security Council. Its deliberations regarding applications for listing and de-listing of individuals and entities take place in closed sessions. Non-members of the UN Security Council are formally apprised of the outcome of their applications only at the time of a final decision. Government is pursuing these applications with the members of the Committee.

Number of Indian students in Australia

†25. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Indian students in Australia;

(b) the States from where students go to Australia each year;

(c) the total number of incidents of discrimination, misbehaviour and attacks against Indians abroad especially in Australia during the last one year;

(d) the number of Indians injured in these incidents;

(e) the steps taken by Government for the security of Indians after the incidents of racial discrimination in Australia; and

(f) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) As per the statistics published by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations of the Government of Australia, the total enrolment of Indian students in Australia in the year 2008 was 97,035.

(b) Students from all over India, predominantly from Punjab, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Haryana go to study in Australia. Precise details are not available.

(c) and (d) The information is being compiled and would be placed on the Table of the House.

(e) and (f) Details are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Details of steps taken by Government for the security of Indians in Australia

The issue of attack on Indian students in Australia has been taken up at the highest level. In a telephonic conversation, when the Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd called our Prime Minister immediately after his assumption of office, our concerns at the attacks on Indian students were conveyed to him suitably. The Prime Minister made a reference to this in the course of his reply to the debate in the Parliament on the motion of thanks for the President's address to the joint sitting of both houses. The Minister of External Affairs has also conveyed our deep concerns to his counterpart in the Government of Australia.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

2. It has been conveyed to the Australian Government that such attacks should not be allowed to happen and that it is the responsibility of the Australian authorities to ensure the well-being and security of our students in Australia. Our High Commissioner and Consuls General in Australia are in constant touch with the Australian authorities both at the federal as well as State level, including the Ministers, senior officers and the police authorities, besides the Australian Foreign Office, the Universities and the students.

3. The Government of Australia has in response to these demarches, strongly condemned these attacks. The Australian authorities have conveyed their firm commitment to ensuring the safety and security of Indian students in Australia. When the matter came up in the Australian Parliament, the Australian Prime Minister as well as the Leader of the opposition and several Members of Parliament denounced the attacks and called for immediate steps to ensure the safety and security of Indian students studying in Australia. Premier of the Victoria state has further promised that the state would do everything in its power to track down the perpetrators of these cowardly acts and bring them to justice.

4. On 23 June, 2009, a delegation led by Ms. Lisa Paul, Secretary, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Government of Australia, called on the Hon'ble Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs. Government of India's deep concerns over the matter were conveyed to the Australian delegation. In response to some suggestions made by the Indian delegation, the Australian side undertook to consider the following:—

(i) Registration of Education Agents;

(ii) Ensuring quality of education provided at private educational institutions;

(iii) Steps to ensure that Education Agents brief deporting Indian students properly, on the basis of the latest advisory booklet published by the Australian Education Department for international students;

(iv) Steps to prevent exploitation of Indian students by unscrupulous employers who underpay them and employ them beyond the maximum prescribed 20 hours a week;

5. The High Commission of India in Canberra and Consulates General in Sydney and Melbourne will continue to extend all possible assistance. An advisory for students going for studies to Australia has been put on the website of this Ministry.

Welfare of Indians abroad

26. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether additional activities now being performed by our Foreign Missions relating to "overseeing the welfare of the Indian Community abroad", as per the requirements of his Ministry are being adequately taken care of by the existing staff of the Foreign Mission;